

Wycombe coast in as Horseman celebrates

Wycombe Wanderers 4,
Bromley 0

ALMOST BACK to full strength after their recent injury toll, Wycombe Wanderers coasted home largely unchallenged against an undistinguished Bromley side at Loakes Park on Saturday — with striker Tony Horseman celebrating his return from the casualty queue with a couple of characteristic snap goals.

This was a wan shade of the powerful Bromley of a few years ago. Without marksman Nottage and left winger Eddie Green they tottered even more uncertainly in attack on Saturday, with little pattern and less punch. The forwards, indeed, rarely got beyond the half-way line.

It was not that the opposition calculated to produce a soccer classic — and it certainly did not. A crowd depleted more than usual by the first chill winds of winter were stimulated by an early goal from Horseman, who began with enthusiasm by heading smartly home from a cross by Dave Thomas. But subsequently there was more frustration than joy for home supporters.

No urgency

The Wanderers sensed an easy passage and injected no real urgency into their moves. There was some neat interception and distribution by another returned casualty, Julian Lalley, and some intelligent constructive play by Baker. And it was refreshing to see the old maestro Len Worley forsaking some of his customary pattern-weaving to sling the ball across without delay.

With Merrick also moving purposefully, there was no lack this time of adequate service from the flanks.

When Faulkner — a qualified success in his experimental role at centre-forward — added a brilliant second midway through the first half, from a pass by a much-improved Charlie Gale, the chances looked bright for a scoring spree, even without the urgency.

By 'Spot Kick'

A sharper spearhead might well have produced four or five by half-time — but invariably Worley and Merrick saw their crosses neglected or sent wide.

Volatile

The Wanderers had to settle for their two-goal lead at half-time and, with Bromley forsaking hope and falling back to crowd the home forwards out, Wycombe had to wait another half-an-hour of the second half for reward. For those shots that found their way past the massed defence were well handled by goalkeeper Higgins. Bromley's one player to emerge with much merit.

Again it was the volatile Horseman, so prompt to seize the chance and so quickly airborne, who broke the deadlock. Snapping up an unconsidered trifle from a long pass upfield, he snaked through to turn the ball cleverly past Higgins.

And three minutes later his opportunism enabled Faulkner to score a fourth with a shot which bounced off a defender wide of the 'keeper's grasp.

Bromley's somewhat dispirited counter-attacks came largely from the right wing, from Howe and veteran Agar, but they offered no real threat to the home defence and

Maskell had one of his easiest days of the season.

As the Wanderers continued to hover round the Bromley goal it was usually Higgins who checked them, though Horseman deserved better luck with a couple of shots in the closing stages.

A useful win but without distinction for Wycombe.

Wycombe 4 Bromley 0

WYCOMBE had a surprisingly easy Isthmian League victory over an undistinguished Bromley side. Bromley achieved little pattern or purpose in attack and spent much of their time packing their goal.

Wycombe took command with early goals from Horseman and Faulkner, and coasted home unchallenged with two more from the same players midway through the second half.